

WRITE TO 



POLITICAL PRISONER



Adapted from a number of different publications and support sites
For further resources please see the back page.

Writing a letter to a political prisoner is a concrete way to support those imprisoned for their political struggles.

A letter is a simple way to brighten someone's day in prison by creating human interaction and communication—something prisons attempt to destroy. Beyond that, writing keeps prisoners connected to the communities and movements of which they are a part, allowing them to provide insights and stay up to date.

Writing to prisoners is not charity, as we on the outside have as much to gain from these relationships as the prisoners. Knowing the importance of letter writing is crucial. Prisons are very lonely, isolating, and disconnected places. Any sort of bridge from the outside world is greatly appreciated.

Want to start a Correspondence?

It doesn't have to be a novel. Introduce yourself, how you heard about them, and a little about yourself or your interests. Think of the types of things you may chat with someone over a casual cup of coffee about. Share about books you're reading or shows you've been watching.

You don't need to put a ton of pressure on yourself. Only share as much personal information as you are comfortable with.

Include roughly how often you expect to be able to write. Be realistic with yourself about this. Once a month is fine, give yourself longer if you need it. Snail mail buys you some time between letters anyways.

Many people love to receive drawings! If it comes more naturally for you to draw a picture than to write a detailed letter that's great. Just keep in mind that most prisons have strict rules around what materials can be used - safest bet is to stick to blue or black ink pen. This will still be hugely appreciated and can be its own springboard for further conversation in future letters.

Contacting prisoners is often 'hit or miss.' Some prisoners answer all their correspondences regularly and are interested in beginning new correspondences and further direct support. Others may not answer even repeated requests to begin a dialogue and a support relationship for whatever reason.

One thing is certain-- if someoneone does not write back, try someone else, because someone, somewhere needs and would like to receive and develop a principled support relationship. Some political prisoners receive a lot of mail and cannot possibly answer it all.

Things to remember if you feel intimidated



You are not the first person to write them. They have received letters from strangers before who also felt awkward reaching out.

If you want to send care and solidarity through bars but know you are not going to be able to correspond long term, think about writing to folks on their birthdays or holidays.

It's very low pressure to just let someone know you're thinking of them and wish they were out here with us.

Some General Guidelines

Include their first and last name as well as ID number, your return address, and page numbers at the top of each sheet. An example for the top of each page could look like this:

First Name Last Name

ID Number

Page Number X/X

Date

Return Address

Remember, don't use anything like white out, colored pencils or crayons, stickers, tape, or glitter.

More and more facilities are switching to scanning mail and providing those inside with digital copies. Occasionally the back side of a page will not be scanned. While not a common problem, it does happen. If this is something you are concerned about you can stick to writing single sided sheets.

Watch your p's and q's. All correspondence is read by facility staff. Don't say anything you wouldn't want read on fox news and don't endanger someone.

If someone is pre-trial, don't mention their case. Saying things like "I'm sorry this is happening to you" or "I wish you were out here with all of us" is a perfectly fine way to let them know you think the case against them is bullshit.

A note on names: you may notice that some people inside go by names other than their official government name. All envelopes must be addressed to their government recognized name, but please be mindful of using the name they are most comfortable with within your actual letter.



Some people, when they write to prisoners, are afraid to talk about their lives and what they are up to, thinking this may depress prisoners, especially those with long sentences, or that they are not interested in your life. However, any news, whether it's about people they know or not, is generally welcome. Especially if you didn't know them before they went to prison, they typically want to know about you, what your life is like, etc. For people imprisoned from our movements and struggles it's vital to keep them involved in the ongoing resistance—telling them about actions, sending them magazines if they want them, discussing ideas and strategies with them. Some people will just want to keep their head down and not engage in politics until they get out. Feel free to ask if there are any particular subject(s) they'd like to talk about.

Instead of simply volunteering your support, or asking them a broad question like “what kind of support do you need,” try to suggest some things you think you can do to help. List resources you have available, contacts you can offer, or talents you possess that could be useful. This will help the both of you to more easily and quickly discover the best kind of support you can offer, and that they also want. Whatever the case may

be, it is very important to be honest and upfront about what you can, and are prepared to, do. If you can only offer some kind of support on a limited or inconsistent basis, tell them.

**FIRE TO THE
PRISONS!**



In your correspondence, you can ask if they could use stamps or funds to buy stamps and how best to get it to them. Most State prisons will allow you to send postal money orders, or in some cases have online payment options; check the website for that particular state's prison system or ask the prisoner for more information.

Birthdays

Lists of current birthdays

This list was printed on:

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Fran Thompson Jan 04

Abdul Aziz (Warren Ballantine)
- January 09

Joseph “Shine White” Stewart
- Jan 14

Joseph “Joe-Joe” Bowen - Jan 15

Marius Mason - Jan 26

Alvin Joseph - Feb 04

Malik Muhammad - Feb 15

Kamau Sadiki (Freddie Hilton)
- Feb 19

Luis Sierra (Abdul-Haqq
El-Qadeer) - Feb 19

Alex Stokes Contompasis - Feb 26

Oso Blanco (Byron Chubbuck)
- Feb 26

Joy Powell, Reverend - Mar 05

Andrew (Andy) Mickel - Mar 13

Roy Brown - Apr 20

Montez Terrill Lee - Apr 22

Janiis Mathis - Apr 24

Casey Goonan - Apr 24

Xinachtli (Alvaro Hernandez)
- May 12

Kojo Bomani Sababu
(Grailing Brown) - May 27

Bomani Shakur (Keith LaMar)
- May 31

Jesse “Tall Can” Cannon - Jun 08

Jarreau “Ruk” Ayers - Jun 15

Jason Renard Walker - June 17

Jessica Reznicek - Jul 25

Margaret Aislinn Channon
- Aug 01

Bill Dunne - Aug 03

Hanif Shabazz Bey
(Beaumont Gereau) - Aug 16

Christopher L Young - Aug 17

Ronald Reed - Aug 31

John Bramble - Sept 1st

Greg Curry - Sept 26

Brian (Peppy) DiPippa - Oct 01

Jamil Abdullah Al-Amin, Imam
- Oct 04

Jennifer Amelia Rose - Oct 06

Malik El-Amin (Meral Smith)
- Oct 08

Jose Angel Felan Jr. - Oct 11
(may be released in Sept 2025,
check before writing)

Michael Kimble Oct 22

Dwayne Staats - Nov 10

John Wade - Nov 11

Joshua (Josh) Williams - Nov 25

Fred “Muhammad” Burton
- Dec 15

Alejandro Rodriguez-Ortiz - Dec 17

Julio A. Zuniga - Dec 23

Casey Brezik - Dec 30

Jonathan Rodriguez - Dec 31st

It's okay if you don't recognize folks. Sending a simple birthday message and telling them you care and wish they were out here with us is important! Email LBPS@riseup.net if you see an update we should make.

**A non exhaustive list of resources for further
reading and connection**

<https://prisonersolidarity.com/>

<https://www.abcf.net>

<https://uprisingsupport.org>

<https://nycabc.wordpress.com/guide/>

<https://nycabc.wordpress.com/write-a-letter/>

**In Contempt a monthly roundup of news and updates from
Its Going Down.**